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WASHINGTON TIMES  
20 June 1985

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# Third terrorist verified by Agca

ROME (UPI) — The Turkish gunman convicted of trying to assassinate Pope John Paul II testified yesterday that a third terrorist armed with "panic bombs" was in St. Peter's Square the day the pope was shot.

Mehmet Ali Agca made the disclosure with apparent reluctance after four days of questioning about suspects photographed in the crowd assembled at St. Peter's on May 13, 1981.

Agca, already serving a life sentence for shooting and wounding the pope in the hand and abdomen, is on trial with four other Turks and three Bulgarians for complicity in the plot.

Yesterday's testimony was the latest in a series of shifts in Agca's account of the assassination attempt that he claims was ordered by the Soviet Union with the collusion of Bulgarian secret agents.

"Yes, there was a third person,"

Agca told a Rome court in a low voice. "Oral Celik brought this one. Oral Celik called him Akif."

Agca originally boasted that he acted alone but later told Italian officials that Celik, a boyhood friend and fellow member of the right-wing Gray Wolves terrorist group, was his backup gunman in St. Peter's Square.

Celik, who dropped out of sight after the shooting, is being tried in absentia for his alleged role in the plot.

Judge Severino Santiapichi elicited Agca's "third person" statement by reading aloud from a deposition from Yalcin Ozbey, another right-wing Turkish terrorist being held in a Bochum, West Germany, jail.

In the deposition, Ozbey said Celik told him in a telephone call from Vienna after the shooting there were four terrorists in St. Peter's Square — Agca, Celik and two others whom Ozbey did not identify.

Agca, clutching a small Turkish-Italian dictionary in both hands as he listened from the witness chair, made no comment on the possible fourth terrorist. But State Prosecutor Antonio Marini told reporters the court would follow up on that in later questioning.

Handed a photograph by the judge, Agca picked out a swarthy young man caught by the camera staring at two other men, believed to be Agca and Celik, while everyone else looked toward the pope.

This, he said, was "Akif." Asked about Akif's role in the attack on the pope, Agca said Akif was assigned to set off "panic bombs" to help them escape after killing John Paul.

Agca said Tuesday that Celik carried the bombs but could not explain why a photograph he claimed was of Celik fleeing the square did not show the bombs.

Changing his story yesterday, Agca said Akif "had to leave bombs because there wasn't a bomb in the hands of Oral Celik."

Asked if Akif was Omer Ay, a Gray Wolf arrested in Hamburg, West Germany two years ago and extradited to Turkey, Agca at first said, "Yes," but then backtracked, saying, "I do not know who Akif was."